IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. The claims are in the format as required by 35 C.F.R. § 1.121.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a visitor at a network site comprising:

receiving an address from a ~~first visitor computer~~ visitor server computer and a first characteristic of a ~~second visitor computer~~ requesting visitor computer;

requesting information regarding a second characteristic of the ~~second visitor computer~~ requesting visitor computer after receiving the address and the first characteristic, wherein requesting information comprises sending a request for the second characteristic of the requesting visitor computer to the visitor server computer;

receiving the information regarding the second characteristic of the ~~second visitor computer~~ requesting visitor computer from the visitor server computer; and

generating a first visitor identifier using the address, the first characteristic and the second characteristic.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the first visitor identifier is performed using only the address and information within a user-agent string of a request originating from the ~~second visitor computer~~ requesting visitor computer.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the user-agent string includes a browser identifier for a browser application on the ~~second visitor computer~~ requesting visitor computer and compatibility information regarding the browser application.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first characteristic of the ~~second visitor computer~~ requesting visitor computer comprises a type of computer, a CPU identifier, an OS, a browser application, a version of a browser application, compatibility information regarding the browser application, locale information, an accessory that can be activated by the browser application, a display size, a resolution setting, or whether a programming language is enabled.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~first visitor computer~~ visitor server computer is different from the ~~second visitor computer~~ requesting visitor computer.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising sending the first characteristic from a the ~~second visitor computer~~ <u>requesting visitor computer</u> to the ~~first visitor computer~~ <u>visitor server computer</u> before generating the first visitor identifier.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
 receiving the address from a <u>the</u> ~~first visitor computer~~ <u>visitor server computer</u> and a
  second characteristic of a ~~third visitor~~ <u>second requesting visitor computer</u>, wherein
  the third visitor computer is different from the ~~first~~<u>visitor server computer</u> and
  ~~second visitor computer~~ the <u>requesting visitor computer</u>; and
 generating a second visitor identifier using the address and the second characteristic.

8.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein:
 the ~~first~~<u>visitor server computer</u> and ~~second visitor computer~~ <u>the requesting visitor</u>
  <u>computer</u>s are the same computer;
 the first characteristic is a first characteristic of a first browsing environment; and
 the method further comprises:
  receiving the address from a <u>the</u> ~~first visitor computer~~ <u>visitor server computer</u>
   and a second characteristic of a second browsing environment, wherein
   the first and second browsing environments use the same OS, browser
   application, and version of browser application; and
  generating a second visitor identifier using the address and the second
   characteristic.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the first visitor identifier is performed without the use of a cookie.

10.   Cancelled

11.   Cancelled

12.   (Currently Amended) A data processing system readable medium comprising code embodied in a data processing system readable medium, the code comprising:

an instruction for accessing an address from a ~~first visitor computer~~ visitor server
computer and a first characteristic of a ~~second visitor computer~~ requesting visitor
computer;

an instruction for requesting information regarding a second characteristic of the ~~second
visitor computer~~ requesting visitor computer after receiving the address and the
first characteristic wherein requesting information comprises sending a request for
the second characteristic of the requesting visitor computer to the visitor server
computer;

an instruction for accessing received information regarding the second characteristic of
the ~~second visitor computer~~ requesting visitor computer from the visitor server
computer; and

an instruction for generating a first visitor identifier using the address, the first
characteristic and the second characteristic.

13. (Currently Amended) The data processing system readable medium of claim 12, wherein
the instruction for generating the first visitor identifier is executed using only the address
and information within a user-agent string of a request originating from the ~~second visitor
computer~~ requesting visitor computer.

14. (Currently Amended) The data processing system readable medium of claim 13, wherein
the user-agent string includes a browser identifier for a browser application on the ~~second
visitor computer~~ requesting visitor computer and compatibility information regarding the
browser application.

15. (Currently Amended) The data processing system readable medium of claim 12, wherein
the first characteristic of the ~~second visitor computer~~ requesting visitor computer
comprises a type of computer, a CPU identifier, an OS, a browser application, a version of
a browser application, compatibility information regarding the browser application, locale
information, an accessory that can be activated by the browser application, a display size,
a resolution setting, or whether a programming language is enabled.

16. (Currently Amended) The data processing system readable medium of claim 12, wherein
the ~~first visitor computer~~ visitor server computer is different from the ~~second visitor
computer~~ requesting visitor computer.

17.   (Currently Amended) The data processing system readable medium of claim 16, the code further comprises:

an instruction for accessing the address from a the ~~first visitor computer~~ visitor server computer and a second characteristic of a ~~third visitor computer~~ second requesting visitor computer, wherein the ~~third visitor computer~~ second requesting visitor computer is different from the ~~first~~ visitor server computer and ~~second visitor computer~~ the requesting visitor computers; and

an instruction for generating a second visitor identifier using the address and the second characteristic.

18.   (Currently Amended) The data processing system readable medium of claim 12, wherein:

the ~~first~~ visitor server computer and ~~second visitor computer~~ the requesting visitor computers are the same computer;

the first characteristic is a first characteristic of a first browsing environment; and

the code further comprises:

an instruction for receiving the address from ~~a first visitor computer~~ the visitor server computer and a second characteristic of a second browsing environment, wherein the first and second browsing environments use the same OS, browser application, and version of browser application; and

an instruction for generating a second visitor identifier using the address and the second characteristic.

19.   (Original) The data processing system readable medium of claim 12, wherein the instruction for generating the first visitor identifier is executed without the use of a cookie.

20.   Cancelled

21.   Cancelled

22.   (Currently Amended) A system for identifying a visitor at a network site comprising:

individual visitor computers;

a network site computer; and

a visitor ~~control~~ server computer bidirectionally coupled to the individual visitor
   computers and the network site computer,

wherein:

the visitor ~~control~~ server computer is configured to not provide an address of any
   individual visitor computer to the network site computer; and

the network site computer is configured to request information regarding a first
   characteristic of at least one ~~of the~~ requesting individual visitor computers <u>wherein</u>
   <u>requesting information comprises sending a request for the first characteristic of</u>
   <u>the requesting individual visitor computer to the visitor server computer</u>, receive
   information regarding the first characteristic <u>from the visitor server computer</u> and
   generate a visitor identifier from an address received from the visitor ~~control~~ <u>server</u>
   computer, the first characteristic, and a second characteristic of the at least one of
   the <u>requesting</u> individual visitor computers.

23.   (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein at least one of the individual visitor computers
      is not configured to receive cookies.

24.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the visitor <u>server</u> computer
      regulates communications across a firewall, and the network site computer and any of the
      individual visitor computers communicate to each other via the visitor <u>server</u> computer.

25.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 22, wherein the visitor <u>server</u> computer
      provides a characteristic of at least one of the <u>requesting</u> individual visitor computers to
      the network site computer.